

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

**Research and Special Programs
Administration**

49 CFR Parts 173 and 179

Docket No. HM-175; Notice No. 83-11

Specification for Railroad Tank Cars Used to Transport Hazardous Materials; Extension of Time for Public Comment

AGENCY: Materials Transportation
Bureau (MTB), Research and Special
Programs Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking
(NPRM); extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: On April 14, 1983, MTB published an NPRM under docket HM-175 (48 FR 16188) pertaining to the construction and maintenance standards for certain railroad tank cars used to transport hazardous materials. Specifically, the NPRM proposes that existing large capacity specification 105 and 111 tank cars built before September 1, 1981 and used for the transportation of a flammable gas, anhydrous ammonia, or ethylene oxide have the same added tank head and thermal safety systems that are now required on newly built specification 105 tank cars and all specification 112 and 114 tank cars used to carry those same hazardous materials. By this notice, MTB is extending the closing date of the comment period from June 7, 1983 to July 13, 1983.

DATE: The time for filing comments is extended from June 7, 1983 to July 13, 1983.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Philip Olekszyk, Office of Safety, Federal Railroad Administration, Washington, D.C. 20590, (202) 426-0897.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In consideration of a request made by the Compressed Gas Association, Inc. (CGA) for additional time in which it may file comments on this NPRM, MTB is extending the comment period to July 13, 1983. CGA requested an extension of at least 90 days so that it and its members may respond to the NPRM with comments that are thoroughly developed, well considered, and factually supported. The CGA contends that its members are substantially affected by this proposal, which would require major technical, logistical, and economic efforts in retrofitting the specification 105 and 111 tank cars.

The MTB believes comments on the proposed amendments can be prepared in less additional time than is sought by CGA since they relate to existing safety

requirements for specification 112 and 114 tank cars, and newly constructed specification 105 tank cars. Extending the comment period to July 13, 1983 allows a total of 90 days to file comments which MTB considers to be adequate time for all interested parties to participate in this rulemaking.

(49 U.S.C. 1803, 1804, 1808; 49 CFR 1.53, App. A to Part 1 and paragraph (a)(4) of App. A to Part 106)

Issued in Washington, D.C. on June 1, 1983.

Alan I. Roberts,

*Associate Director for Hazardous Materials
Regulation, Materials Transportation Bureau.*

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